CHAPTER III.

GROSS YIELD AND OUTTURN OF FOREST PRODUCE.

I.—DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS.

(*a*).—Timber.

139. A comparative statement of the timber exploited departmentally from the forests with the cost of the operations and the revenue realized therefrom is given below :—

Division.	1895-96.			1896-97.		
	Timber in Cubic feet.	Cost.	Receipts.	Timber in Cubic feet.	Cost.	Receipts.
		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh ...	22,985	1,186	7,654	20,960	2,163	4,752
West Khándesh ...	115,600	3,507	41,959	102,141	3,399	23,451
Násik	36,741	...	348	564	...	74
Ahmednagar ...	33,004	903	7,285	39,864	594	1,463
Poona	14,081	3,331	12,448	20,178	1,908	9,341
Sátára	21,325	2,541	15,219	81,123	3,220	10,487
Sholápur	...	...	...	...	10	...
Total ...	243,736	11,468	84,913	264,830	11,294	49,568

140. In East Khándesh Division the prices obtained from teak were very low. The teak exploited from the coupes in the Yával Sátpudas had to be carried 36 miles on pack bullocks to the temporary sale depôt at Faizpur, a market town in the Tápti Valley, as purchasers and contractors would not buy the timber when stacked in the coupes.

141. In the West Khándesh Division a large portion of timber remained unsold.

142. In the Násik Division there are no departmental operations proper for the extraction of timber, but the wood cut on boundary lines during the demarcation of forest boundaries in the Peint Range realized Rs. 74.

143. In the Ahmednagar Division 13,991 teak trees were exploited from the coupes under working plans, the cost amounted to Rs. 525 and the sales realized Rs. 1,463. 2,850 jambul (Eugenia) trees were felled in river beds in the Sangamner Range at a cost of Rs. 69, but this material was not sold, for there were no bids for it.

144. In the Poona Division 20,176 cubic feet of timber were cut at a cost of Rs. 1,908, out of which 19,176 cubic feet were sold for Rs. 9,341 and 1,000 were used to form posts for wire fencing in the Haveli Range.

145. In the Sátára Division departmental operations were undertaken in 9 ranges out of 14. The timber exploited in 8 ranges was teak and that exploited from a reserved forest on the bank of the Krishna river in the Tásgaon Range was bábul.

146. There were no departmental operations in the Sholápur Division.

(*b*).—Firewood and Charcoal.

147. The following statement furnishes the comparative transactions of two years :—

Division.	1895-96.			1896-97.		
	Firewood in Cubic feet.	Cost.	Receipts.	Firewood in Cubic feet.	Cost.	Receipts.
		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh ...	760,905	4,102	11,812	827,370	3,922	7,516
West Khándesh ...	457,119	2,494	13,421	467,991	2,537	6,062
Násik	2,212	10	111	3,847	68	95
Ahmednagar ...	23,407	...	358	9,070	...	37
Poona	93,839	503	1,625	566,160	3,390	7,316
Sátára	719,395	5,392	8,145	627,260	3,484	4,125
Sholápur	418	1	21	1,916	9	100
Total ...	2,057,295	12,502	35,493	2,503,614	13,410	25,251

148. In East Khándesh Division firewood cut in some of the coupes in Chálisgaon, as well as that at Nimkheda in Bhusával, and Therala in Edlabad, to meet tradē demānds, could not sell, owing to the slackness of business, and steam cotton mills not working and not consuming wood to the extent of ordinary years. The scope of departmental fellings of trees standing in disforested lands had also to be curtailed as wood was practically unsaleable.

149. The West Khándesh firewood fellings consisted of anjan (Hardwickia) in the Dhulia and Pimpalner ranges and of khair (Acacia) in Nizámpur; prices were good. 81,937 cubic feet of firewood remained unsold at the close of the year.

150. The firewood cut in the Násik forests was supplied to famine kitchens and only the charges which had been incurred in cutting and cartage were charged to Famine Fund; no profit was demanded.

151. In the Ahmednagar Division there are no departmental firewood fellings. All trees in the coupes are sold on foot in accordance with the provisions of the working plans of the bábul blocks. Loppings of teak and jambul trees exploited for timber are sold as firewood.

152. In the Poona Division dead fallen trees in the bábul forests are felled and removed for sale departmentally, and some coupes which could not find purchasers were worked by hired labour under departmental directions and supervision. Out of 568,190 cubic feet of firewood, 200,918 cubic feet remained unsold at the close of the year.

153. In the Sátára Division out of 627,260 cubic feet of firewood exploited by departmental agency, 116,420 cubic feet of firewood remained unsold at the close of the year.

154. In the Sholápur Division there are no departmental firewood fellings to speak of. All trees in the coupes are sold on foot in accordance with the provisions of the working plans of the bábul blocks.

(*c*).—Bamboos and (*d*).—Sandalwood.

155. No departmental operations were undertaken under these heads.

(*e*).—Grass and other Minor Produce.

156. As a famine relief measure, the collection of grass and its exportation to the famine-affected parts of the Deccan were undertaken during the year under the direction of the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth, Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade, who was employed on special duty for the purpose. Enormous quantities of grass were collected, compressed into bales by steam-power as well as by bullock-power and by hand-presses, in the East Khándesh, Thána, Poona, Sátára, Belgaum, Kánara and Dhárwár districts, and the bales were sent by railway to stations in the Násik, Ahmednagar, Poona, Sholápur and Bijápur districts, where